

217. (*Proposal by Petition.*) Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by petition signed by a number of qualified voters of Cumberland equal to ten per cent of those voting for candidates for the office of Mayor at the last preceding regular municipal general election. Such petition shall contain the street address of each signer and shall be presented to the Mayor, who shall verify the signatures and make public announcement to the effect that the signatures are authentic, or are not authentic, within thirty days from the time of receiving such petition. If the Mayor announces that the signatures in his opinion are not authentic, he shall make public his specific reasons for so doing, and he shall explain how the defects in the petition can be remedied.

218. (*Authentication.*) When the Mayor shall have announced that the signatures on the amendment petition appear to be authentic, the Mayor and City Council shall then provide within sixty days for the submission of the said amendment, without change and as stated in the original petition, at a special election before the next succeeding municipal general election or at the next succeeding municipal general election. The Mayor and City Council shall not have power, on its own motion, to propose an amendment on the subject matter covered by an amendment petition after such petition has been filed with the Mayor, until such time as the Mayor shall have refused to authenticate the signatures on the petition, or the voters shall have accepted or rejected the petition amendment.

219. (*Charter Commission.*) The Mayor and City Council may by ordinance appoint a Charter Commission to revise or amend this charter or to propose a New Charter. The Mayor and City Council may also be authorized and directed to appoint a Charter Commission, by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters of Cumberland equal to ten per cent of those voting for candidates for the office of Mayor at the last preceding municipal general election; provided, however, that the Mayor shall have thirty days in which to authenticate the signatures on the petition, which shall contain the street address of each signer, and there shall be allowed an additional thirty days in which to appoint the Charter Commission.

219. (CHARTER COMMISSION.) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MAY BY ORDINANCE PROVIDE FOR THE ELECTION AT EITHER A SPECIAL OR A REGULAR MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION OF A CHARTER COMMISSION TO REVISE OR AMEND THIS CHARTER OR TO PROPOSE A NEW CHARTER.